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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



201927

I. HEADING

DATE: September 23, 2003

SUBJECT: POLREP 4 for the ARCO Research Lab Site, Harvey, Cook County, Illinois

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POLREP #: POLREP 4 ARCO RESEARCH LAB REMOVAL

II. BACKGROUND

Response Authority:	CERCLA (# ILN000508307)
NPL Status:	Non-NP1
Site ID No:	B53D
Start Date:	June 30, 2003
Completion Date:	Pending
Latitude:	41°37'21"N
Longitude:	87°38'01"W

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Time critical soil removal of **uncontrolled** hazardous substances, including drums, solid materials, and asbestos.

B. Site Description

1. Site location

The ARCO Research Lab Site is located at 400 East 147th Street in Harvey, Cook County, Illinois. The western boundary of the site parallels the Illinois Central Railroad or Metra Electric commuter rail line, the northern boundary is 147th Street, the eastern boundary of the site is adjacent to Field Elementary

School, and the southern boundary of the site is adjacent to other industrial facilities. The nearest residential areas are approximately 500 feet from the site and the nearest body of water is the Calumet River, approximately 2,400 feet east of the site.

2. Description of threat

Samples were collected of suspected asbestos-containing material from the main building and surrounding buildings during a U.S. EPA site investigation in April 2002. Samples were collected from pipe insulation, ceiling tile paper, floor tile, and duct insulation. Samples indicated the presence of asbestos (25-30%) in these materials, with an estimated 135,000 square feet of ACM. It was observed that 50% of the ACM was damaged, loose, or had fallen to the ground and mixed with other building debris. Several containers, with their contents unknown, were observed throughout the property and in several buildings. Access to the property and building is unrestricted, allowing for future vandalism and potential for fire. A day-care facility and elementary school are directly east of the facility posing a potential direct contact threat to children.

3. Site background

The Site is the former location of the ARCO Chemical Research facility, comprising numerous buildings on 30 acres in Harvey, Illinois. The site was acquired by BP Amoco in the 1980s and later closed around 1990. A developer attempted to lease out the various buildings but only attracted a few tenants. The City of Harvey acquired the property in the mid 1990s due to delinquent taxes. The site includes numerous buildings including research/offices, power plant, and empty above-ground tank farm, and utility tunnels with pipes containing ACM. One company manufactured lignosulfate, an agricultural food additive, and dust suppressant. The company left a significant amount of product and waste at the site.

The site is currently vacant with extensive vandalism and unsecured entrances. Extensive damage is visible to most of the windows, as well as numerous fires in several rooms and hallways. All recyclable materials had been removed from the buildings leaving insulation scattered throughout. There are numerous piles of debris throughout the site, with some containing drums of unknown contents.

1.4 State and local actions to date

The Illinois EPA performed an inspection of the facility to determine if an action was required. The Illinois EPA recommended to the Illinois Attorney General that remedial action was required at the site. The Attorney General referred the site to the U.S. EPA.

IV. SITE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Response activities to date (9-15-03 to 9-23-03)

- ERRS contractor removed to the site to initiated disposal of waste materials.
- Non-hazardous solids located in and around building H are being loaded into roll-off boxes for disposal, currently six roll-offs have been removed to date.
- Approximately 1000 gallons of a caustic liquid from an abandoned tanker was removed on 9-16-03
- The bulk asbestos debris is currently in a roll-off awaiting disposal. A small volume of loose ACM was removed from rooms in building H and the pipe chase and included in this roll-off.

- The gray non-hazardous solids are being repackaged into new drums for disposal
- The cubic yard boxes containing bags of a non-hazardous white powder were shipped on 9-23-03

B. Planned Removal Activities

- Removal activities will include, securing building A with the recently installed fence and the board-up of the front and west entrance, and the front windows as needed, the removal of all containers throughout the site, and removal of product materials associated with Building H

C. Next Steps

- Continue disposal of all waste streams.
- Encapsulate remaining ACM in the pipe chase with visqueen.
- Remove a limited amount of general debris.
- Board-up open areas as needed.

D. Key Issues

- USEPA will continue to evaluate the options for building A and L, which currently include;
- 1) securing the building with a fence and board up open doors and windows; 2) remove all debris and loose / damaged ACM; 3) wet demolition of buildings A and L, which requires an emergency order and regulatory variance. Current funding limitations will not permit work under options 2 and 3 at this time, should additional funds become available, the potential for additional work will be revisited.

5. COSTS

	<u>Cost to date</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>% Remaining</u>
ERRS	\$125,000	\$ 250,000	50%
START	<u>\$ NA</u>	<u>\$ NA</u>	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL	\$125,000	\$ 250,000	50%

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based upon figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery

6. DISPOSAL (PENDING)

Neutral Liquids	14 drums 7000 gallons (bulk)
Acid Liquids	5 drums
Caustic Liquids	4 drums 1,000 gallons (bulk) - shipped 9-16-03

Flamm Liquids
Neutral Solids

17 drums
11 drums
26 cu yd boxes - shipped 9-23-03

Caustic Solids
Non-haz Solids
Asbestos debris

5 drums
10 roll-offs (80 tons)
10 yards